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ABSTRACT

This is an interpretive manual designed to accompany the Test of Proficiency in English as a Second Language, a comprehensive test assessing production and perception skills in written and spoken English and intended for use in Grades 4-6 in Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. The manual is divided into three sections. Section one discusses English proficiency and the ways in which information from test results is best incorporated into decisions affecting individuals and Groups. Section two contains the information about TOPESL, TOPISL scores, and the norms population necessary for interpretation of scores and differences between scores. Section three contains detailed information about the development of TOPESL, and about the development of statistical information for TOPESL. Statistical data are presented in tables, and appendices list participating schools. (Author/AM)



INTERPRETIVE MANUAL

for

TEST OF PROFICIENCY IN ESL

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Introduction

The Test of Proficiency in English as a Second Language (TOPESL) is a comprehensive test assessing skills in the production and perception of written and spoken English intended for use in grades four, five and six. The test is designed for use in Bureau of Indian Affairs' schools. It consists of three separately administered sections, English Structure (ES), Listening Comprehension (LC) and Oral Production (OP). Accompanying the test itself are a separate administrative manual and this interpretive manual. The administrative manual gives detailed information about the administration and scoring of TOPESL. This interpretive manual is divided into three sections. Section I contains a discussion of English proficiency and provides a discussion of the ways in which information from test results , is best incorporated into decisions affecting individuals and groups. Section II contains the information about TOPESL, TOPESL scores, and the norms population, which is necessary for interpretation of scores and differences between scores. Section III contains detailed information about the development of TOPESL, and about developing statistical information for TOPESL.

For TOPESL as with any standard test, familiarity with basic testing concepts is a necessary qualification for the interpretation of scores.* Persons not familiar with the theoretical and practical limitations on the accuracy of test scores, tend to give too much significance to any obtained score. As will be noted repeatedly below, there is a margin of error in the use of any test results which cannot be ignored. For this reason, other pertinent information should be used in conjunction with test scores wherever possible. It should be noted, however, that although there is a non-negligible margin of error present in measurement with standardized tests, this margin is far smaller than it is for most other forms of assessing human performance.



^{*}Persons interested in obtaining additional information on these "basic testing concepts" should refer to texts such as: Lee J. Cronbach. Essentials of Fsychological Testing (2nd edition), Harper & Row, 1960; Robert L. Ebel. Measuring Educational Achievement, Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1965; Henry E. Garrett. Statistics in Psychology and Education (5th edition), Longmans, Green and Co., 1961; David P. Harris. Testing English as a Second Language, McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1969. In addition, some extremely useful information on testing can be found in the test packet containing a series of brochures available free from the Educational Testing Service, Princeton, New Jersey. (An exceptionally useful brochure in the ETS packet is number 1, Locating Information on Educational Measurement: Sources and References which contains an annotated bibliography.)

English Proficiency

There are many kinds of skills that are frequently classified together under the broad heading "English." These include writing, spelling, punctuation, phonics, reading, and correct usage, among others. These are typically the aspects of the use of language which must be taught to children who have learned English at home as their first language. They are skills dealing for the most part with written standard English and the correspondences between the spoken and written forms of the language. These writing conventions are not the aspects of English with which TOPESL is primarily concerned. TOPESL is concerned with the knowledge of English structure, the way words go together to form sentences in English. It is thus not concerned with where commas go, or the distinction between "lie" an and "lay," or whether "English" should be capitalized. Rather, it is concerned with knowing, for example, that the answer to a "what" question is usually a noun phrase and not "yes" or "no."

Purpose

The scores from these tests are intended to provide users with both placement and group diagnostic information. The information provided by the test should be considered an adjunct to the teachers' knowledge and not a replacement for it. Where in individual cases, interpretations of test scores yield conclusions greatly at variance with teachers' judgments, extenuating circumstances should be sought. Perhaps the child marked in the wrong section of the answer sheet, or was ill or worried about personal problems.

Though TOPESL scores come from students' performance in three basic areas requiring a broad knowledge of English, TOPESL does not provide an exhaustive sampling of all aspects of English proficiency. Though vocabulary is doubtless an element in language proficiency, there is no specific vocabulary section to TOPESL. Similarly, though pronunciation is a noticeable aspect of spoken language, no attempt is made to assess this in TOPESL. These areas, though not assessed by TOPESL sections, are none the less important in overall language proficiency. Further, pronunciation assessment routines were not included in TOPESL because: (1) judging pronunciation deviations from standard English dialects is frequently extremely difficult for people who have not had specific training in phonetics and (2) "mispronounced" grammatically correct utterances seem to be less of a problem in communication than the respective statuses of encoder and decoder, situational context and the like.



Decision Making with Tests

Information from tests has no intrinsic value; it is useful only as an aid in decision making. For test results to be best utilized, they should be part of the total input to a decision rule. A decision rule is the process of choosing the kinds of information to be used, determining the relative value to be assigned to each kind of information, and finally specifying what is to be done with the information. The advantage of decision rules is that they explicitly state what weight or value is to be assigned to each of the types of available information. Decision rules can be formulated to operate with a minimum of information, e.g., taking every person over eight years of age would be such a rule which could operate with minimal information. With increased amounts of information available more complex decision formulae are useful. For example, in a given school where two levels of instruction in English structure are available to students from three classrooms, a hypothetical rule might be as follows: Add together the standard score from each of the sections of TOPESL and divide by 100. Add 4 points for an A, 2 points for a B, and 1 point for a C grade in English the previous year. Subtract one half point for each year in school. Give non-readers two points. Then exempt the top third from any English structure courses, put the second third in the upper level, and the last third in the lower level of English structure. This rule is not offerred as a suggestion for actual use, but only to illustrate the statement of such a rule. Any actual rule must take into account local considerations, such as number of special classes available, consistency in grading, etc. Should a decision formula give what seem to be incorrect results, the kinds of information put in or the relative weight of the categories of information should be changed.

The decisions using test results can be classified in several ways with respect to: (1) who makes the decisions—teachers, education specialists, principals or supervisors; (2) where the decisions are made—in the classroom, in the school, or in the district; or (3) who is affected by the decisions—individuals or groups. Decisions involving individuals are usually made at the local level and involve placement, diagnosis of problems, and determination of whether individuals are performing to potential. Poor knowledge of English may be responsible for performance below potential or under—achievement. Decisions affecting groups may be local or non-local and involve deciding the number of courses needed, how much time should be devoted in the curriculum, grouping strategies, the evaluation of programs and so on.

Decisions affecting groups are in one sense simpler to make. Any testing instrument makes some misclassifications and, as discussed in greater detail below, these are quantified by the standard error of measurement. Since the misclassifications in general are normally distributed, with sizeable groups they tend to cancel each other out. Because of this tendency, there need be less concern with error of measurement in decisions affecting



groups than in decisions affecting individuals. Let us consider first, local decisions about groups, then non-local decisions about groups, and finally decisions about individuals.

Locally-made decisions involving groups can be further separated to within classroom and within school. The within school decisions (usually made by language arts specialists and principals in consultation with teachers) involve determining how many levels of English instruction are necessary, now much time should be devoted to it and what strategies should be followed for grouping. Various grouping strategies might be to put together in the same classes, people of the same interest level, or the same cognitive level, or the same level in knowledge of English. Other information would be necessary for implementing interest level or cognitive level grouping, but TOPESL scores along with other information about English proficiency would serve to group individuals according to their ability level in English.

Much the same kinds of considerations are involved in the withinclassroom decisions made by the classroom teacher. If the school curriculum is not departmentalized, all the groups established will be taught by the same teacher, but the same criteria apply to making the decisions.

Non-local decisions by supervisors and curriculum planners will determine how much of the curriculum should be devoted to the study of English structure and the extent to which teacher training should emphasize the teaching of English. Included will be the extent to which English specialists need to be assigned to larger schools and available to smaller ones. Additional use of test information at the administrative level will include the evaluation of effectiveness of different English programs at various schools. This will entail establishing regular testing programs, and specific procedures to evaluate results obtained from them.

Decisions involving individuals will almost always be made within the classroom or the school. Here, because the unit of focus is the individual rather than a group, misclassifications or discrepancies between obtained and "correct" or "true" scores cannot cancel out. The standard error of measurement (SE_m) thus becomes of greater importance. By chance, a person with any given true score will have an obtained score differing from his true score by more than one SE_m about one in three times, and by more than two SE_m about one in twenty times. On the test of English structure, where the SE_m is 4.6 in raw score units, in general one out of three persons with a true score of 35 would get an obtained score higher than 39 or lower than 31. Because of this uncertainty in individual score assignment, which is present in any test, care must be exercised in use of scores in individual placement. To facilitate use of the SE_m, Section II reports the data for various grades in the usual percentiles and, also in intervals or bands two SE_m wide.



Because of the range of error in individual score assignment, all available and pertinent information in addition to test scores should be included in the placement-decision formulae, such as, previous grades, teacher evaluations, scores on standardized tests, etc. Where three or more independent sources of information are available, errors in score assignment to individuals will tend to cancel out.



SECTION II

Section I of this interpretive manual provided a statement of test purposes and considers the use of test results in decision making. Section II provides a brief discussion of TOPESL and the information necessary to interpret raw scores. This information includes: reliability information-how consistent the test is in its score assignments to individuals; error of measurement data--with what degree of confidence an individual's score can be expected to fall in a given interval; validity information--what evidence there is that the test will actually accomplish the purposes for which it was designed; recommended uses of TOPESL scores; use of norms tables--how the performance of given classes of pupils is distributed; and a description of the population on which the norms were based. TOPESL consists of three basic types of testing instruments: (1) a written test of English structures; (2) a listening comprehension test; and (3) an oral production test.

There are two parallel forms of the written test, each of which contains sixty-two multiple choice items. One type consists of a question stem which can be answered with one of the choices; e.g., "What does Tommy read in class?" "(a) Yes, he does; (b) Likes books; (c) School books." The second type consists of an incomplete stem which can be completed with one of the choices, e.g., "The _____ in this room is awful." "(a) heat; (b) hot; (c) hotly."

The listening comprehension test consists of aural stimuli, recorded on tape, and three types of multiple choice responses: (a) choosing the correct picture of three which has been described on the tape; (b) identifying factual information which was actually given in a recorded conversation; and (c) using information contained in a recorded conversation in order to infer the correct choice.

The third part of the test battery consists of an oral production test. In this test the student is shown several sets of pictures—each set containing four pictures. Each picture in each of the sets varies slightly from the others along some criterial attribute. The student is then shown a test picture which is identical to one of the four in the set. Two responses are required of the student. First he must point to the picture in the set which matches the test picture. Then he must tell the examiner how that particular picture differs from the others in the set.

In order to aid teachers in evaluating the children's oral responses, and to standardize evaluation throughout all of the schools, a correction matrix was designed, (see Table A). On the far left hand side of the matrix is a series of grammatical categories. Each category represents a structure elicited by one of the sets of pictures. Seven require simple sentences and seven require complex sentences in order to describe the picture correctly, e.g., a simple response to one item is "The boys are washing their faces."



TABLE A TEST OF PROFICIENCY IN ESL

SCORE SHEET

ORAL PRODUCTION TEST

DATE	:		1	<u> </u>		!
	Nате					
1	Preposition	1	1	1	1	1
2	Subject + Verb	3	3	3	3	3
3	Subject - Object Differentiation: One boy - Another boy	2	2	2	2	2
4	Plural Pronoun Agreement: They - Their	4	4	4	4	4
5	Pronoun Gender Agreement: She - Her	3	3	3	3	3
6	Fluency	4	4	4	4	4
7	Present Progressive Tense: Be + ing	1	1	1	1	1
	Article Presence: A / The	1	1	1	1	1
8	Complexity	4	4	4	4	4
	Plural Noun: Their Books	2	2	2	2	2
9	Complexity	4	4	4	4	4
1	Count / Mass Noun: A Letter / Mail	2	2	2	2	2
10	Complexity	4	4	4	4	4
	Fluency	2	2	2	2	2
11	Complexity	4	4	4	4	4
	Present Progressive Tense: Be + ing	2	2	2	2	2
12	Complexity	4	4	4	4	4
	Verb Tense: Fall	2	2	2	2	2
13	Complexity	4	4	4	4	4
,	Quantifier: Many / A Lot Of	4	4	4	4	4
14	Complexity	3	3	3	3	3

TOTAL SCORE :

13

A response using a complex sentence, as in the second half of the oral production test is, "The girl is watching the children read their books." Along the rows opposite each category is a number from one to four which the teacher crosses out if the response is wrong or leaves alone if the answer is right. For each subject tested, the teacher simply adds the column of numbers beneath the child's name, which have not been crossed out.

The different grammatical categories are assigned numbers ranging from one to four because previous administrations and statistical analyses of the pre-tests showed that certain categories are more predictive of success or failure on the total test. The most predictive items are scored four points and so on down to the least predictive items which are scored one point only. All the teacher has to do is listen for one specific grammatical aspect, e.g., in item four plural pronoun agreement, and then allow or disallow the number of points for that category only. In other words, even if part of the child's response is grammatically incorrect, he still receives total credit if the part of the response being evaluated for that particular item is correct. For example, for item number five, where the category being evaluated is pronoun gender agreement, the response, "The girl are pointing to her mouth." would receive full credit, even though there is an error in number agreement.

The objectives of the test battery are threefold. The first is to identify the Amerindian child who needs special training in English versus the child who does not and to determine the placement of the former in the proper level of intensity of training in English. The second purpose is to provide the classroom teacher with specific linguistic information for each child in each language group which could be used as a diagnostic guide for teaching methods or materials. Potentially a third objective is to provide a means of assessing the relative merit of various English programs. These objectives require that certain decisions be made which can be classified as placement, diagnostic and evaluative decisions.

Reliability and Error of Measurement

For the test of English structure, two kinds of reliability information are reported, internal consistency estimates from item homogeneity (KR-20) and parallel forms correlation (Pearson product-moment). These are reported in Table 1. Since internal consistency of the test could be spuriously high due to the effects from speededness (see Table 15), the error of measurement for the English structure test has been computed on the basis of the parallel forms figure. Because the listening comprehension test is paced by the accompanying taped stimuli, the effects of speededness are negligible and internal consistency figures are appropriately used in estimating reliability and computing the error of measurement for it, as reported in Table 1.

For the oral production test, the use of internal consistency estimates from item homogeneity to determine reliability must be justified, because



TABLE 1 Reliabilities and SE_{m} 's

Written Parallel Forms		r	<u>N</u>	\overline{M}	SD	
Form A Form B Combined	A-B B-A	.89 .90 .895	251 251	34.2 35.7 34.0	13.7 13.3 13.5	
•						
Form A		<u>KR-20</u>	N	M	SD	
Total Sample Choctaw Eskimo Hopi Navajo		.96 .97 .97 .95	291 38 53 49 151	38.6 31.5 39.1 51.6 35.9	15.4 17.4 16.3 10.7 13.3	
Form B		<u>KR-20</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>M</u>	SD	
Total Sample Choctaw Eskimo Hopi Navajo		.95 .95 .94 .90	281 39 51 46 145	38.6 31.6 38.6 52.9 35.9	14.2 14.3 13.2 7.8 13.0	
<u>LC</u>		<u>KR-20</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>M</u>	SD	SEm
Total Sample Choctaw Eskimo Hopi Navajo All Tested 4,5,6		.85 .89 .87 .82	571 104 104 94 295 5,112	20.8 19.8 21.1 24.4 19.7 19.6	5.7 6.6 5.9 4.4 5.2 5.5	2.15
OP*		KR-20	<u>N</u>	<u>M</u>	SD	SEm
Total Sample All Tested		.73	182 1,660	43.5	11.5	5.85

^{*}Numbers too small for breakdown by group.



the score on the oral production test is not simply the number of items correct, but rather is the sum of a set of weights given to the items. For a discussion of the weighting and the justification see Section III. It should be noted here that the SE_m reported in Table 1 is not exactly equal to $s\sqrt{1-r}$, but that it is sufficiently close to give an index for proper interpretation of scores for decisions involving individuals.

For all three sections of the test the SE_m used in computing the percentile bands is based on all four combined language groups. Where, because of differences in homogeneity in individual groups the size of the variance may be changed, the percentile bands may be somewhat more or less than two SE_m wide.

Validity

The three sections of TOPESL, English structure, listening comprehension and oral production are intended to include a sufficient cross-section of the basic skills involved in understanding and speaking English to provide content validity for TOPESL. Content validity is primarily obtained by having persons quite knowledgeable in the subject matter area cooperate in the selection of techniques and production of items, (see Section III for details on this aspect) but it is best demonstrated by showing how well the appropriate skills actually are sampled.

In the test of English structure, sentences and question reply exchanges are presented in written form and students must make judgments of grammaticality about them. The grammaticality judgments consist of picking which of the three alternatives corresponds most closely with standard English. Of 86 initial grammatical categories tried out, 28 remain after the item validation and selection procedures on the present 62 item test. The items are written so that no outside information about the content of the item is necessary because only one response is grammatically possible. In general, even though particular vocabulary items may be unknown it will still be possible to select the correct answer from grammatical considerations alone. Because the English structure items are presented in written form only, there is some confounding with reading ability.

While the emphasis in the English structure section is on the form of the language, the listening comprehension section emphasizes the content. The listening comprehension items require that a sentence or brief conversation be understood and an answer given which requires (1) recognizing a pictorial representation of that content, (2) recalling part of that content, or (3) making a simple inference on the basis of that content. The tasks of recognizing pictorial representation, recall and inference may be separate from comprehension of English, yet some response mode is necessary, and by coupling the comprehension task with three different response modes the effects of confounding from any particular task may be



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reduced. Though the listening comprehension items are presented aurally, i.e., both the stem and choices, some minimal reading skill is required of pupils to determine which choice is being read and to mark their response on the answer sheet.

The oral production section requires the student to be able to express himself sufficiently in English to be able to distinguish one picture from three others to the satisfaction of the examiner and to use correctly the different grammatical categories being tested in specific items.

Construct validity for TOPESL is indicated in three ways, correlation with other measures which require language facility, through the inclusion of a subcriterion scale on the test of English structure, and through correlation of test results with amount of English contact as estimated by school administrators.

Two earlier forms of the test of English structure, used in item validation studies, PL I and PL II, correlated as shown in Table 2 with existing standardized tests, teacher grades, and teacher ratings. It should be noted that within each information type, teacher evaluations or standard test scores, PL I and PL II correlated quite highly with purer language measures than with arithmetic scores.

The subcriterion scale consists of 16 written test items which had a strong discrimination power with Amerindian children but did not with Anglos. Discrimination scores, expressed as "phi" [$\emptyset = (x^2/n)$], are measures of the degree to which each item differentiates "top" performers in terms of the total test scores. The higher the discrimination score for any given item the better the item separates high achievers from low achievers. See Section III for a full discussion of the development of the subcriterion scale and a listing of the subcriterion items. The subcriterion scale provided a basis for determining a validity index in item selection for the English structure test. The assumption involved in the use of the subcriterion scale is that items which do discriminate among persons learning English as a second language, but not among native speakers, are true measures of knowledge of English.

School administrators in each of the areas sampled for the norming administration of TOPESL were asked to evaluate the extent to which English was used outside of the school on the three point scale: (1) no English contact outside of school, (2) some, including access to television, (3) frequent English contact. No correlation between English contact and test scores were obtained for two language groups, Choctaw and Hopi, as there was no variation on that variable. However, data is available for 49 of the 54 schools tested. The significant positive correlation between English contact ratings and scores on TOPESL as reported in Table 3 would indicate that TOPESL does in fact measure English proficiency. Where English contact is higher, a generally higher level of English proficiency can be expected, and the positive correlations indicate that TOPESL was successful in indicating this difference.



TABLE 2

Average correlations of PL I and PL II with teachers' ratings and school performance. Fall 1969.

CHOCTAN ESKINO EMAND ENTINO CHOCTAN SA 20 SA 18 S6 20 S6 17 S6 20 S6 17 S6 130 2.8 1.0 .06 97 3.4 0.9 .20 9 .65 131 2.7 1.0 .17 99 3.3 0.8 .23 9 .35 121 2.0 1.0 .13 96 2.4 0.8 .38 9 .34 121 2.6 1.1 .24 96 2.4 0.8 .38 9 .34 121 2.5 1.0 .33 96 2.5 0.8 .30 9 .71 S5 4.6 1.3 .80 75 4.2 1.3 .82 12 R8 .50 53 5.0 1.1 .78 74 4.4 1.3 .74 12																		
E N M SD E N M SD E 54 20 34 18 7 54 18 7 18 7 18 7 18 7 10 17 26 17 17 20 17 20 17 20 17 20 17 20 120				CIO	C1.AW			ESK	IMO			110P I	1			NAVAJO	0.70	
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.65 131 2.7 1.0 .17 99 3.3 0.8 .23 .35 121 2.0 1.0 .13 96 2.4 0.9 .33 .39 121 2.6 1.1 .24 96 2.4 0.8 .38 .34 121 2.3 1.0 .33 96 2.5 0.8 .30 .71 55 4.6 1.3 .80 75 4.2 1.3 .82 1 ng .50 53 5.0 1.1 .78 74 4.4 1.3 .74 1	ache		. 59	130	2.8	1.0	90.	97	3.4	0.0	.20	66	3.1	0.7	, 45	82	3.2	0.8
.35 121 2.0 1.0 .13 96 2.4 0.9 .33 .39 121 2.6 1.1 .24 96 2.4 0.8 .38 .34 121 2.3 1.0 .33 96 2.5 0.8 .30 .71 55 4.6 1.3 .80 75 4.2 1.3 .82 1 ng .50 53 5.0 1.1 .78 74 4.4 1.3 .74 1	9,,,,		.65	131	2.7	1.0	.17	99	3.3	8.0	.23	66	3.0	0.7	.45	82	3.2	0.7
39 121 2.6 1.1 .24 96 2.4 0.8 .38 .30 .34 121 2.3 1.0 .33 96 2.5 0.8 .30 .71 55 4.6 1.3 .80 75 4.2 1.3 .82 1 ng .50 53 5.0 1.1 .78 74 4.4 1.3 .74 1	ache	S4	.35	121	2.0	1.0	.13	96	2.4	0.9	.33	66	2.6	0.0	=	101	8.5	0.0
.34 121 2.3 1.0 .33 96 2.5 0.8 .30 .71 55 4.6 1.3 .80 75 4.2 1.3 .82 1 ng .50 53 5.0 1.1 .78 74 4.4 1.3 .74 1	aces		.39	121	2.6	1.1	. 24	96	2.4	8.0	.38	99	2.8	8.0	.17	101	3.0	8.0
ng .50 53 5.0 1.1 .78 74 4.4 1.3 .74	•	Eng.	.34	121	2.3	1.0	.33	96	2.5	8.0	.30	66	2.5	0.7	. 28	101	3.0	0.7
ng .50 53 5.0 1.1 .78 74 4.4 1.3 .74	adin	g Comp.	.71	55	4.6	1.3	.80	75	4.2	1.3	.82	126	3.9	1.2	99.	66	3.5	1.5
. !	ithm	etic Reasoning	.50	53	5.0	1.1	.78	74	4.4	1.3	.74	126	4.0	1.3	.52	99	3.6	1.5
	chan	ical English	.74	54	5.2	1.3	.74	72	4.4	1,5	. 74	126	4.3	1.4	.50	98	4,0	1.5

TABLE 3

Correlations of amount of English contact outside of school with TOPESL section scores. No values for Choctaw and Hopi as there was no variation in English contact for those groups.

	ESK	IMO	NA	/AJ0
	<u>3</u>	4,5,6	<u>3</u>	4,5,6
English Structure	.33**	.25**	.26**	.14**
Listening Comprehension	.44**	.15**	.15**	.12**
Oral Production	.48**	.40**	.03 ^{ns}	03ns
Number of Schools	23	23	26	26
Number of Pupils	236	600	1,382	4,122
English Contact M	2.25	2.17	2.14	2.25
SD	.65	.67	.83	.83

- significant at .01 ns - not significant

Recommended Uses

For decisions involving individuals recommended uses of TOPESL scores are: (1) aiding in determining if a student is performing to potential; (2) individual placement; and (3) diagnosis of relative strength in various aspects of English.

Determination of performance to potential is aided by determining if an individual scores below levels which indicate little or no knowledge of English. On the English structure and listening comprehension sections, which are both multiple choice tests, an individual may get a raw score somewhat above zero by chance alone, even if he doesn't know the answer to any question. Because of the variation of chance scores, a score must be several points above the average chance score, before it is truly indicative of any knowledge of English at all. These chance scores are ES 432, LC 399, OP 382 in standard scores. See the following paragraph for a discussion of the origin of these figures. Where children score at or below these chance levels it may be assumed that they are significantly limited by their lack of knowledge of English and that this alone could account for failure to perform well in other subject areas. Conversely, a score at the level of performance of native English speakers would indicate that English was not a bar to performance in other areas. It must be noted that a low score on the English structure section alone, would be more properly considered as indicative of inability to read than lack of proficiency in English.

Individual placement should be decided by a decision procedure which incorporates local information and local situational factors as well as



TOPESL scores. Pertinent information from local sources would usually include grades, ratings by teachers, and scores on other standard tests. Local situational factors generally would determine the number of levels of placement actually available and would include such considerations as class sizes, time available for English structure instruction, number of teachers conversant with English structure techniques, quality and quantity of English structure materials available. Where local decision procedures have not yet been established and for non-local determination of the general level of English proficiency in groups of schools the following guidelines are suggested.

RECOMMENDATIONS	ES	LC	OP	AVG ST
Intensive instruction in English structure	0-432	0-399	0-382	0-407
Moderate instruction in English structure	433-538	400-525	383-548	408-527
No special English structure instruction	539 and above	526 and above	549 and above	528 and above

The first cutting score represents a point high enough to include 90 percent of the chance distribution for the ES and LC sections. The second cutting score represents a point 3.25 SE_m above the first cutting score for all three sections, so that the middle section is 3.25 SE_m wide. For the ES section the second cutting score is also the point corresponding to the tenth percentile of native speaker performance on an earlier form of the test of English structure. For the OP section, since there are no chance scores to provide a bottom cutting score and since data on native speaker performance has not yet been gathered to provide a top cutting score, a band 3.25 SE_m wide was established which covers approximately the same range as do the ES and LC cutting scores. Generally more than one section score will be available. A convenient way of combining them is to take the average standard (AVG ST) score, the cutting points for which are also indicated.

Diagnostic information on individuals is obtained by comparing section percentile scores, using the appropriate reference group. For example, of three Navajo fifth graders with standard scores and percentile scores of:

	E	S	L	С	, o	P
	STD %-	ile Band	STD %-	ile Band	STD %-	ile Band
Pupil 1:	460	28-50	507	32-60	496	26-67
Pupil 2:	566	64-83	435	18-38	513	30-73
Pupil 3:	524	50-70	562	52-82	409	11-30



The first shows quite balanced performance across the three English skills, while the second shows possible deficiency in understanding spoken English and the third possible deficiency in producing English. It should be noted in comparing section scores, that the stability of a difference between two scores is less than that of one score taken alone. For this reason, comparison of section scores should be done using the percentile bands to take into account the SE_m . A student's performance on two sections of the test should not be considered different unless the percentile scores do not overlap.

For decisions involving groups, recommended use of TOPESL scores are: (1) diagnosis of group difficulties; (2) planning of curricula; and (3) evaluation of programs.

The source of information for group diagnosis is item data on the ES section. While the number of items per category is not high enough to give reliable diagnostic information about individuals, useful information about group performance on particular categories can be obtained from item statistics. Item statistics can be used in two ways. One is to use the information provided in Tables 7 through 11 directly. Table 7 gives the categorization of the items on the ES section. Table 8 and 9 are based on combined group and give rank order of difficulty (NOD), the difficulty score, p, (percent of the sample selected for item analysis marking the correct answer to the item) and an estimate of the percent of the population actually knowing the right answer, p', based on distribution of responses to the item. Tables 10 and 11 give p and p' for individual language groups. These figures provide information about the relative difficulties for various groups of the categories assessed by the ES section. For example item number 45 on form B of the ES section, which tests frequency adverb modifers, has a p' of .38 for total group, .08 for Chectaw, .30 for Eskimo, .91 for Hopi and .14 for Navajo, indicating that it is a difficult category for all groups for which data is provided except the children in Hopi schools. Item number 19 on form B which examines comparative modifiers, is about equally difficult for all groups with p' scores of .77 for total group, .71 for Choctaw, .84 for Eskimo, .74 for Hopi and .73 for Navajo.

A second use of item statistics is to compare the performance of classes on test items with the performance of the appropriate norms group. For example if a class at a Navajo school has a difficulty score of .27 for item number ten, which for children at Navajo schools in general has a difficulty score of .89, it may be concluded that that particular class has more trouble with questions containing verbs with separable particles (like "look up the word" or "look the word up") than the population from which they come. Therefore, time should be spent teaching such constructions. Calculation for this kind of use of item information are extremely simple, and only involve determining the percent of persons selecting the right answer to each question. This is then compared to the p score reported for that item for the appropriate reference group. Since these figures are for



grades four, five and six combined, classes which are all fourth or fifth or sixth may be expected to differ systematically from these, in that fourth graders score lower and sixth graders higher. Because there is some chance fluctuation in item statistics, differences between class difficulty scores and the reported difficulty scores should be greater than .20 to be considered meaningful.

Use of Norms Tables

Norms tables are provided for individual language groups, Choctaw, Eskimo, Hopi, Navajo and, in addition, for combined groups, for grades three, four, five and six. The tables are arranged so that conversion from raw to standard scores can be accomplished at the same time that percentile scores and percentile bands are obtained. Numbers on which tables are based, means and standard deviation are given at the bottom of each.

The score conversion is based on combined scores for all fourth, fifth and sixth graders tested. The mean of the standard scores is 500 and the standard deviation is set at 100. There were two reasons for choosing this score conversion scale. First, it has been in use for sometime, and many people are familiar with it. Second, because the standard scores vary around 500, they are not easily confused with IQ scores. Through the use of both standard scores and percentile scores by group, two simultaneous comparisons are allowed. The percentile scores for each group show relative standing for that grade and group, and the standard scores show whether the individual is above or below average for all children tested in grades four, five and six irrespective of grade. For example, a Hopi sixth grader with a raw score of 49 on the ES test would be almost one SD above average (standard score 594 is mean of 500 + .94 SD) for all children tested, and yet in the 35th percentile of his reference group. This means that 65 percent of his reference group scored higher than he did. Similarly an Eskimo fourth grader with a raw score of 19 on the LC test would be barely average for all children tested (standard score of 489 is mean of 500 less .11 SD) and yet in the 68th percentile for his reference group which means that only 32 percent of his reference group scored higher on the LC test.

The combined group tables are the recommended reference for all groups not sampled and for groups sampled, but for whom no percentile data are given because the numbers of persons on whom data was available was too low to compute percentiles. Specifically, there are no percentile data given for Choctaw and Hopi on the OP section.

Percentiles based on fewer than 200 persons are apt not to accurately reflect the true distribution of ability within the reference group, and so should be used with caution. This advisement applies to OP data for Eskimo schools, to all data for Hopi and Choctaw schools. Though the percentile



data for these groups must be used advisedly, they are provided here as they do give an idea of general ability level and distribution within the groups in Fall 1970 when data for the norms tables was obtained.

To provide an additional basis of comparison, it is recommended that norms based strictly on local groups be established. This is strongly advised for all groups for which no norm data are provided here and for groups for which the data given here are based on considerably fewer than 200 persons. The development of norms for local groups is a straightforward procedure which involves calculating midpoint percentiles from frequency distributions of scores of groups of 200 or more.

As an example of the use of the norms tables, consider a fifth grade Eskimo who had the following raw scores. ES 39, LC 18, OP 49. Looking in the norms tables for Eskimo schools for fifth graders, it's found that these raw scores correspond to standard scores of ES 524, LC 471, OP 548 and percentile bands of ES 31-52, LC 22-36, OP 34-83. Since these bands all overlap somewhat, it cannot be concluded that this student's abilities differ on the skills assessed by the various sections of TOPESL.

Description of the Norms Sample

The population for the norms consisted of all Amerindian children in grades three, four, five and six in school on the ten days following the twenty-fifth day of instruction in the Fall of 1970, in the schools selected. Schools were selected on the basis of a stratified sampling schema which took into consideration: whether schools were boarding or day, school size, school accessibility, language group of school population, and availability of teachers for workshops held in Summer 1970. These workshops were given to train teachers in the administration and scoring of the OP section of TOPESL. Because only schools with Choctaw, Eskimo, Hopi and Navajo speakers were selected and because consideration of availability of teachers was involved, the sample cannot be said to be strictly representative of the total population of BIA schools. However the 6,977 pupils tested constitute 43 percent of the 16,040 enrolled in Bureau schools in grades three, four, five and six in 1970, and of the 37 listings by tribe in Statistics Concerning Indian Education, the four language groups tested account for 83 percent of the total BIA school population.

For purposes of description, schools participating in the norming administration were classified into the following categories:

Total Enrollment: 5 sizes - 0-74 15-149 150-299 300-600 600+
Accessibility: 3 degrees - remote difficult easy
English Contact: 3 degrees - none some frequent

The sampling of schools within the five size strata is indicated in Table 4.



TABLE 4

Comparison of School Sizes in Sample and in BIA School Population

	No. i	n Popul	ation	No.	No. in Sample			
Size	Boarding	Day	Total	Boarding	Day	Total	Percent Sampled	
0-74	8	75	83	0	12	12	.145	
75-149	7	34	41	l i l	6	7	.17	
150-299	17	21	38	4	7	11	.29	
300-599	17	4	21	6	i	7	.33	
600+	28	4	32	15	2	17	.53	
Totals	77	138	215	26	28	54	.25	

As can be seen from Table 4 large schools are over-represented in the sample obtained, with a corresponding under-representation of small schools. Because the correlation of school size with test scores varies for different language groups, as reported in Table 5, that table should be examined to determine the effect of this over-representation of large schools, in particular cases.

TABLE 5

Correlation of School Size with TOPESL Section Scores

	ES	LC	OP	# of Schools		Mean Size	SD Size
Choctaw 3	.55**	.06 ^{ns}	.39**	2	68	4.2	.96
Choctaw 4,5,6	.29**	.13 ^{ns}	34**	2	196	4.2	.98
Eskimo 3	.22**	.40**	.43**	23	236	2.3	1.2
Eskimo 4,5,6	.22**	.14**	.31**	23	600	2.2	1.1
liopi		No	Variation	n in Scho	ol Size -		
Navajo 3	.13**	.08*	.07*	26	1,382	4.5	.63
4	.07*	.04 ^{ns}	01 ^{ns}	26	1,502	4.5	.63
5	.12**	.08*	06*	26	1,344	4.5	.63
6	.05 ns	.08*	19**		1,310	4.7	.45
ns not significa	int	* signif	icant .05		** si	gnifica	nt .01

Table 6 provides a complete listing by number of the constitutions of the norms sample considering the characteristics: school size, school accessibility, English usage, grade, sex, age and language group. The schools which participated in the norming administration are listed in Appendix II.



TABLE 6
Numbers in Sample

			S	chool S	ize		Scl	hool Acc	ess.
Grad e	Total	1	2	3	44	5	1	2	3
3	1,802	71	96	210	592	833	523	856	423
4	1,894	74	99	189	524	1,008	500	936	458
5	1,648	52	99	141	474	882	397	796	455
6	1,633	65	57	121	428	962	393	726	514
	6,977	262	351	661	2,018	3,685	1,813	3,314	1,850

	E	nglish U	sage		Sex		Langu	iage	
Grade	1	2	3	М	F	Choc.	Esk.	Hopi	Nav.
3	424	636	742	914	885	68	236	110	1,388
4	440	579	875	829	1,001	78	232	81	1,503
5	377	497	774	849	793	52	189	57	1,350
6	306	469	858	783	846	66	179	76	1,312
	1,547	2,181	3,249	3,375	3,525	264	836	324	5,553

				Age			
Grade	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3	332	792	404	136	31	7	10
4	24	272	832	458	166	42	13
5	3	7	208	749	455	142	47
6	_ 2	1	11	216	<u>751</u>	445	179
	361	1,072	1,455	1,559	1,403	636	249

CLASSIFICATION OF WRITTEN ITEMS

		Form A	Form B
٧.	Verb		
	 Auxilliary a) Agreement w/reply b) Do in question c) Replacive d) Modal e) Passive Complement 	A23, A26, A37, A57 A5, A48 A45 A27 A20, A42, A60	B23, B24, B46 B14 B16, B41, B47, B52 B11 B30, B36, B62
	a) Infinitiveb) Inf. without toc) Gerund3. Order in question with	A3 A32, A41 A36	B9 B18, B28 A37
	separable particle 4. Tense a) Agreement w/adverb b) Past as conditional c) Sequence of	A7, A10, A11 A33, A49, A54, A56, A59 A31, A46, A62 A2	B12, B20 B34, B44, B55, B56, B60 B17, B49, B22 B50
М.	Modifier		
	 Comparative Adjective a) Selection b) Numeral Adverbial 	A21, A22, A30, A34, A38 A8 A52	B25, B38, B19, B27, ธเร, รม B4 B43
	a) Negativeb) Intensifierc) Frequencyd) Timee) Locative Phrase	A9 A12 A15, A44 A17 A53	B26 B10 B45 B5 B54
ił.	Hominal	•	
	 Relative pronoun Direct object pronoun Reflexive Possessive pronoun Houn selection 	A4, A13, A18 A14, A35 A24 A47, A50, A55, A58 A29	B1, B6, B42 B40 B2 B31, B48, B33, B61 B3
C.	Conjunction		
	 Coordinate Subordinate 	A1, A6 A40, A43, A61, A16, A19, A39	B8, B53 B29, C39, B59, B58, B35, B51, B32
Q.	Question reply	A25, A51	B7, B57
₩.	Nord order in relative clause	A28	B13

TABLE 8 -- Statistics for Combined Groups

English Structure: Form A

																								_							_
Matched Item	B 18	က	N	4	ന	C	2	(,,	~	"	(,)	٠,	$\overline{}$	_	~	8 31	×	4	B 48	വ	4	2	വ	က	വ	×	9	9	9	.B 59	J
ROD	¥2	27	31	32	ຂ	30	18	14	23	22	24	13	17	21	=	15	16	<u> </u>	9	က	^	52	20	15	ഹ	2	လ -	<u>ه</u>	, •	4 2	
rpbi	.36	.35	.54	.47	49	.37	.55	52.	.44	33	.53	.49	.44	.45	.49	.57	.38	.36	.43	γ	.62	63	.60	.58	.44	.57	.72	35.	.37	.40	
p,	.36	.40	.49	.50	.47	.45	8.	.25	.41	.40	.48	.44	.29	.51	.29	.29	8.	.37	.23	.28	.23	ය.	.60	.41	.34	.39	.41	.34	.04	.28	
c.	09.	69.	.63	63.	19.	.63	.48	.47	.57	.57	.57	.54	∞	. 55	44.	.47	.47	.46	.42	.38	.43	. 57	.55	.46	.40	.43	.43	. 43	E:		1
Category	V2b	۷4a	Z	NZ	V2c	Vla	M	C 5	23	. V2b	۷٦e	C 5	M3c	VIC	V4b	N4	Vlb	V4a	ZZ ZZ	0	M2b	МЗе	V4a	N4	V4a	Vla	N4	V4a	Vle	C2 VAb	21.1
Item #	1																													A 61	
Matched Item	8 8	വ			_	വ	×		2	B 20	Т.	_																		B 19 B 17	1
ROD	19	09	55	57	54	53	45	47	46	62	53	36	5]	59	35	4	48	52	20	33	21	22	39	43	6,0	34	56	37	ည္က	28	
rpbi	.39	.31	.33	.45	96.	.46	.36	.52	.51	.3]	.43	.50	.22	.35	.55	.36	.48	.55	.54	.30	.50	. 52	. 55	. 55	.44	.41	.49	.52	.5]	.54	
l d	.81	.74	99.	.73	.64	.72	23.	.62	.59	ణ.	99•	.45	.63	.75	:51	.55	.62	.71	.67	.41	. 59	. 55	53	. 53	.64	.46	.73	.55	.56	39	
î.	33.	36.	<u>ت</u>	<u>ස</u>	8	23	.75	.76	.75	.38	.73	89.	.78	.83	.67	.71	.76	.79	.77	.65	.74		٦/٠		9%.	.65	ವ	69.	69.	0.09	
Category	13	V4c	V2a	<u> </u>	۷۱۵	r U	K3	MZa	H3a	٨3	V3	M3b	2	N2	:30;	22	N3d	Z	23	, 1e	E	E	۷la	23	c	۷Ja	ριΛ	3	RS SS	EI VA6	>
Item #	٦ ٧	2 V	ري در	~ <	Α 5	9 <	-	-		A 10	_	A 12	A 13	A 14	A 15	V 16	A 17	λ 18												A 30	



TABLE 9
Statistics for Combined Groups

English Structure: Form B

Matched Item	A 39	ന	- •	7	(J	~	4	က :	×	. rc	4	A 15	~	×	വ	A 46		_	×			A 54						A 4	
ROD	38 25	35	ဓ္	53	24	33	<u>5</u>	27	18	- C	17	14	15	21	20	=	ပ	6	ω,	4	<u>۔۔</u>	7,	ກ ເ	_	m •	4 (= 4	7 -	
rpbi	.35	.54	.37	.56	.62	.58	.57	.41	20	2.5		.57	.54	.60	.61	.53	.5]	.59	.58	.53	.54	00.	ລະ	-6.	.57	25.	89.	.56	
ď	.53	. 53	.49	.48	.38	.54	.40	.47	53.	5	.33	.38	.38	.49	.48	.20	.20	.20	.25	6.6	22.	2.50	/2.	05.	25	<u> </u>		61.	
<u>a</u>	63	.67	•64	.64	.60	.65	• 26	.62	 5.54 7.6	46	.52	.49	. 20	.57	.56	.44	.38	.41	39	۶۰	33	,C.	٠٥,	0 0	ئ د د	٠ د د	24.	.27	
Category	82	V4a	22.	Vle	V2c	E T	C5	25	၁ -	NZb	V4a	N3c	Vla	Vlc	Z Z	V4b	V4c	C 5	Alc 9:	3	M3e	۷4a ۲ ۴	V4a	احد	25	2	V4a	N4 V1e	
Item #	B 32 B 33	B 34	ა გა	13 36 13 36	37	B 38	B 39	B 40	B 4-	B 43	B 44	B 45	B 46	B 47	B 48	B 49	8 50	B 51	8 22	ည ကို ကို	3 2 1	ວ ເດີ	2 C	ري د ع/	2 28 2 28	8 2 4 6 0 6	000	19 8 19 62	
Matched Item	A 4 A 24	~	_	-,	- (2		-	- ~		2			7	.,,,	,	.,,	- ,	.,,(ינ	٠,	,, (v	•	7) <	.	4 (A 47	
ROD	55 60	49	29	21	43	[9]	45	200	228	54	53	57	52	28	44	20	25.	74	42	77	٠- و د	- c	2,5	2 6	35	2 5	37	8	7
rpbi	34.	.47	92.	.23	.33	.26	. 54	05.5	.45	.39	.35	.42	.22	.43	.55	9.	75.	د	٠ د د د	500.			70.	74.		5	33	99.	
, d	62.	.65	6/.	.63	.54	.79	58.	99.	.73	99.	• 65	69.	64	14.	.58	2/:	//-	.42	٠٠. م	70.	٠. ٩٨	40	90			· 1		.40	
Ь	.80	88.	ສ. ເ	٠, در	5.5	;∺	ر. ا	.78 75	833	.79	.79	ည်း	6/.			35			7/.	90	מי	50	5.5	9 6	ر ۲	2.	8	.62	
Category	- E E	67.7	M3 d		: c	~C	5 5	N3b	PIA	۸3	3	9 [0 1	0 4.7	מאַ) <u>-</u>	7 AP	. L.V	- ^	E	- R	3	72h	22	V C	. ×	•••
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																						_							_



TABLE 10

English Structure: Form A

	_	F
oj.	, d	20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 2
Navajo	c.	
Hopi	- a	88 86 87 87 87 88 89 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80
ĭ	а	92 92 93 93 94 95 95 95 96 96 96 96 96 96 96 97 97 97 97 97 97 97 97 97 97 97 97 97
OIII	-d	.57 .69 .69 .35 .33 .33 .34 .53 .53 .53 .53 .53 .53 .53 .53 .53 .53
Eski	۵	
Choctaw	, d	22 27 27 28 36 39 39 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50
Cho	а	
	Item #	333 34 35 35 36 36 36 36 36 37 47 47 47 47 47 47 47 47 47 47 47 47 47
oj	, d	27. 27. 28. 28. 28. 28. 28. 28. 28. 28. 28. 28
flavajo	а	
llopi	, d	88 88 88 88 88 88 88 88 88 88 88 88 88
<u>∺</u>	a	96.000 96.000
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TABLE 11

English Structure: Form B

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Norms Tables

The following 20 pages present the raw to standard score conversions, midpoint percentiles and percentile bands for Combined Group, and for Choctaw, Eskimo, Hopi and Navajo schools. The English structure, listening comprehension and oral production percentiles are listed together by grade. The English structure section is referred to in the tables as "Written." Abbreviations used are: Stnd for Standard; Band for Percentile Band; and Mid for Midpoint Percentile. An asterisk (*) indicates that the percentile scores are either less than 1 percent or greater than 99 percent, appropriately as it occurs at the top or bottom of the table.

The number of pupils on whom the percentile figures are based, the mean and standard deviation for each group are given at the bottom of the tables.



COMBINED GROUPS

Third Grade

Fourth Grade

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	Stnd	257	264	27.1	273	285	292	299	306	313	320	327	334	341	343	355	362	369	376	383	390	397	404	411	418	425	432	439	446	453	460
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COMBINED GROUPS

Third Grade

Fourth Grade

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COMBINED GROUPS

Fifth Grade

Sixth Grade

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COMBINED GROUPS

Fifth Grade

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CHOCTAW

Third Grade

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CHOCTAN

Third Grade

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Third Grade

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Fifth Grade

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Third Grade

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Sixth Grade

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Sixth Grade

Fifth Grade

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SECTION III

Sections I and II of this interpretive manual consider the use of test results in decision making and provide information necessary to interpret scores. Section III provides a discussion of test technique selection and item validation studies, and also gives information on the calculation of the statistical data.

Test Technique Selection

The basic goals of the test development project were formulated in the summer of 1968, when a series of planning meetings, attended by ELTP staff, BIA staff and project consultants were held. At these meetings it was decided that primary importance should be given to developing a test of English proficiency for grades four, five and six. These grades were selected on the basis of data presented at the meetings about student motivation and attendance patterns in BIA schools, namely: interest in school begins dropping by fourth grade, there are motivation problems by sixth grade, and a 20 to 30 percent drop-out rate by eighth grade.

The goal of the development effort was to be a test of English proficiency which assessed skills in both production and perception of English, and which would be "culture fair." On the basis of potential content validity various techniques were suggested to be used in eliciting production and perception responses exhibiting those skills considered necessary for speaking and understanding English.

The following techniques were evaluated as to how well they could assess English production: description of pictures to a rater, reading a paragraph, telling a story suggested by a series of pictures, role playing, interviewing, description of an object presented for manipulation, imitation of given sentences, transformation of given sentences into their corresponding passives or negatives, word association following direction, and self-ratings. From these techniques, picture description, repetition and transformation of given sentences were selected for field testing.

It was decided to examine the perception of English by using both written and auditory (spoken) stimuli. Techniques considered for use in written form included: question and short answer, sentence completion, combining two simple sentences into a complex one, breaking a complex sentence into two simple ones, selecting transformations of a given sentence, and correctly ordering sentences presented in scrambled form. The format finally chosen for field testing of written perception consisted of multiple choice items of the short answer and sentence completion type. The items for the written form were to be written to completely cover a list of grammatical categories selected by linguists as being basic to communication in English.



Techniques considered for use in spoken form for examining perception of English were: distinguishing minimal phonetic pairs, identifying a picture described by a test sentence, inferring where a presented conversation took place, and recalling information presented in a conversation. All of these except minimal pair discrimination were selected for field testing.

It was also decided that, along with field testing of techniques, external criteria adequacy and validity studies should be carried out. Field testing attempted to find out (1) what kinds of things people respond to and (2) what kinds of things yield responses that have a varying range. For external criteria adequacy, other measures that might show English ability, i.e., achievement test scores, IQ scores, attendance records, grades, reading rates, teacher ratings and self-image ratings, were suggested. External criteria adequacy studies were necessary to answer the question how well do these other measures reflect knowledge of English. Measures finally selected were grades, teacher ratings and achievement test scores. Validity studies were then necessary to find what, if any, correlation existed between scores from the new techniques and ratings from the external criteria.

Field testing of the selected new techniques was carried out both in BIA schools with native speakers of Amerindian languages, and in Los Angeles schools with native speakers of English. Not only the target grades, four, five and six, but also grades three and seven were tested, to provide bracketting information about proficiency. At the end of the first year techniques had been validated through field testing, and through studies to determine correlations of test scores within each of the prospective techniques. A summary of the figures from the correlation studies has been given in Table 3.

Once techniques had been validated, it remained to improve the consistency of the individual test sections by subjecting each technique to item analysis for item validation. Schools participating in item validation studies in Fail 1969 and Spring 1970 are listed in Appendix I. The written items for the English structure section, were validated in two ways, against total test score and against a subcriterion score. The subcriterion score was the number correct on 16 items selected on the basis of relatively high discrimination scores among Amerindian children speaking English as a first language. Table 12 provides a listing of the categorization of the subcriterion items, and the difference in discrimination power among the two groups. The discrimination scores using total test scores and subcriterion scores were combined with item difficulty data to produce indices of item validity and item reliability, using the formulas: $i_r = index$ of reliability = $r_{g t}$ s_{g} ; i_{v} = index of validity = $r_{g c}$ s_{g} ; where $r_{g t}$ is the correlation of item score with total test score, rg c is the correlation of item score with subcriterion score and sg is the item standard deviation, equal to vpg.



The indices of validity and reliability were used in item selection following a technique outlined by Gullicksen (1950, p. 383), in which items are chosen on the basis of high index of validity and the ratio of ir/iv.

In setting up the two parallel forms of the English structure section, items were paired according to both their index of validity and index of reliability, so that for every item assigned to Form A there was an equally valid and reliable item assigned to Form B. From 256 items representing the 86 grammatical categories initially chosen as essential to proficiency in English 124 items representing 29 grammatical categories were finally selected.

TABLE 12 Categorization of Subcriterial Items

Verb: Auxiliary, replacive, "are too"	.25
Conjunction: Subordinate, "so"	. 25
Modifier: Comparative, "different from"	. 24
Nominal: Derived noun, "friendship"	.22
Conjunction: Subordinate, "so"	.22
Modifier: Comparative, "the more the "	.21
Modifier: Comparative, "the more the "	.19
Verb: Auxiliary, replacive, "do so"	.17
Modifier: Negative word order, "did not"	.17
Verb: Separable, "write down"	.16
Conjunction: Subordinate, "wish that"	.16
Modifier: Comparative, "asas"	.14
Nominal: Possessive pronoun, "youyour"	.13
Nominal: Relative pronoun, "placewhere"	.12
Verb: Agreement with adverb, "beforeing"	.12
Modifier: Comparative	.11
Median Ø ₁ - Ø ₂	.17
Mean $\emptyset_1 - \emptyset_2$.18

The listening comprehension items were validated in two separate sections: a picture section and a conversation section. Picture items were selected on the basis of item correlation with total score on the picture section. Conversation items were selected on the basis of item correlation with total score on the conversation section. Of 19 picture items, 14 were selected; of 23 conversation items, 16 were selected for inclusion in the final LC section which contains both picture and conversation items.



The present scoring system for the Oral Production makes adequate description of the target picture a requirement for accepting the response for scoring. Once the response is judged by the examiner to be an adequate description of the target picture, it is then evaluated for grammatical correctness. For each item one or two grammatical aspects have been selected for evaluation, and correctness is determined for these aspects only. Making adequate description a preliminary criterion, and picking the particular grammatical aspects to be scored for each item were the final result of several stages of development.

In the initial stages, all responses were tape recorded and analyzed later. The first scoring system rated plus or minus on four factors : intelligibility -- whether the response could be understood; description -whether the response adequately described the target picture; grammaticality--whether there were any grammatical errors in the response; vocabulary--whether there were any vocabulary errors. Sub-scores on these factors were included in the correlation study of techniques and criteria. Results from the study showed that only description and grammaticality were consistently positively correlated with other measures of English proficiency. The correlations were strongest with grammaticality. As a result, in the second stage of the development of a scoring system for the OP section, an expanded classificatory system was worked out which allowed errors to be broken down into four categories: grammar, pronunciation, description and vocabulary. The description and vocabulary categories were not further broken down, the grammar category was divided into errors concerning nouns, errors concerning verbs, and errors of complexity. Errors concerning nouns were further divided as number, gender, absence of noun, determiner and other. Errors concerning verbs were further divided into errors of number, absence of verb, tense and prepositions. Errors in complexity were those where the two required ideas were combined through simple conjunction (using "and"), were given in two simple sentences, or were coupled with "when". Pronunciation errors were broken into errors concerning consonants, vowels and errors of fluency. Fluency was defined as starting the response again, two or more times. The matrix used is given in Table 13.



TABLE 13

	Grammar										Pror	nuncia	tion	Description	Vocabulary
	No	uns			Ve	rbs	;	Co	mplex	ity	V ₀	င့	F1		
Number	Absence	Determiner	Preposition	Number	Absence	Tense	Preposition	Simple conj.	Simple sentences	Conj. with "when"	Vowels	Consonants	luency	•	

Five hundred children were tape recorded taking the OP test in Fall 1970. The tapes were returned and scored using the matrix. The results were submitted for standard item analysis. On the basis of the results it was decided to make adequate description an absolute criterion for accepting a response for further evaluation. Once a response is accepted as being adequately descriptive, it is evaluated only as to whether it contains what was the most powerfully discriminating error for that set of pictures. The last eight pictures, are scored for complexity, in addition to the category selected by the item analysis procedure. After the errors to be scored were selected, they were weighted from one to four points per item. The weights were assigned on the basis of the biserial correlation coefficient of item score with OP test score. The biserial correlation was computed on only the top and bottom 27 percent of each group, with the middle 46 percent of each group omitted.

Because of the weighting of the items, the score on the OP section is $\frac{\text{not}}{\text{not}}$ a straight linear function of the number of items on which no error was made. Since standard formulas giving estimates of test reliability require that score be a linear function of number of items answered correctly, and since the question of scorer reliability arises with a test of production, the reliability figure reported for the OP section does not have the same meaning, as the figure for the ES and LC sections. In an attempt to account for both internal consistency and scorer reliability, the geometric mean of an internal consistency estimate (KR-20) and a scorer reliability figure (product-moment) was taken. The KR-20 estimate is .728 the figure from the rater reliability study is .755. Their geometric mean, .74, was used to compute the SE_m for the OP section.



The .KR-20 formula was used as the source for the internal consistency figure used to calculate the geometric mean, even though one of the assumptions for the use of KR-20 (linearity of score and number of items correct) was violated. An estimate of the magnitude of error resulting from this violation must be attempted. Gullicksen (1950, p. 326) gives a formula developed by Wicks which approximates the mean value of the correlation between two weighted composites, $R_{X_V \cdot X_W} = 1 - \frac{1}{2\bar{r}K} \left[\left(\frac{S_V}{M_{\star}} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{S_W}{M_{\star}} \right)^2 \right] = R_{X_V \cdot X_W}$ is the mean value of the correlation between the weighted composites, r is the average intercorrelation between the variables being combined, $\Sigma^{r}gh$. K is the number of variables being combined. $M_{\mathbf{V}}$ and $M_{\mathbf{W}}$ are the means of the two systems weights, and $S_{_{\boldsymbol{V}}}$ and $S_{_{\boldsymbol{W}}}$ are the standard deviations of the two systems of weights. For the unweighted case $M_V = 1$ and $S_V = 0$. If both are unweighted \bar{R} becomes 1. The question is how much does the set of weights used with the OP section change this value. The mean of the OP weights is 2.86 and the SD is 3.06. So with the OP weights R becomes $1 - \frac{1.14}{2\overline{r}^{\kappa}}$. Since there are 21 items, this becomes $1 - \frac{.027}{\overline{r}}$. Even if \overline{r}

were as low as 0.3, \bar{R} would still be 1 - .09 or .91.

The inter-rater reliability figure is based on the correlation of total scores on the OP section. Four judges rated each of five subjects twice, and four judges rated each of ten subjects once, for a total of 200 pairs of ratings. The resultant figure of .755 thus reflects both inter and intra-judge reliability.

Test Inter-Correlation

Inter-correlations among parts of the test are as given in Table 14.

TABLE 14

Inter-Correlations of Sections of TOPESL

GROUP	ES/LC	ES/OP	LC/OP
Choctaw	.71	.45	.47
Eskimo	.56	.51	.40
Hopi	.55	.53	.42
Navajo	.53	.51	.43
Combined	.56	.50	.43
groups			

Parallel Forms Data

Five hundred and two students took both Forms A and B of the ES section. All groups took the second form within five days of taking the first. Exactly half had Form A first and half had Form B first. The correlation with A first, $r_{A\ B}$ was .890, the correlation with B first, $r_{B\ A}$ was .900. Mean raw score on Form A 35.4, Form B 34.8. Standard deviation of Form A was 13.7, the standard deviation of Form B, 13.3.

Combined Scores for Forms A and B of the ES Section

A preliminary sample of 538 persons, of whom 269 took Form A, and 269 Form B, was drawn to determine if the population mean for Form A was different than Form B. The means, SD's and critical ratios for the sample were as follows:

	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>
Form A	34.84	16.28
Form B	33.70	15.80
Difference	1.14	.48
Critical Ratio	.83	.49
Probability	.40	.60

On the basis of this sample it was concluded that the population means and SD's for Form A and B were not different. This conclusion was born out by correlation information on the total norms sample of 6,771. The correlation of ES score with form was + .003.



Speededness

Speededness data were collected only for the ES section of TOPESL as a format for the LC and OP sections precludes any strong speededness effects. Percentages of persons reaching item 46 (3/4 finished), and 62 (end of test) are indicated in Table 15. Figures are based on the item analysis sample of 795 persons.

TABLE 15

		% Reaching	Item Numbe	r
	Form	. A	For	n B
Group	#46	#62	#46	#62
Choctaw	. 47	.31	.64	.33
Eskimo	.89	.68	.88	.74
Hopi	.98	.94	.98	.93
Navajo	.80	.66	.83	.55
Combined groups	.81	.66	.84	.62

Item Statistics

Item statistics based on the item analysis sample for combined groups are presented in Tables 16 and 17. Reported are p, p', $r_{\rm pb}$, and item categorization for each item on the written test. Tables 18 and 19 give p and p' for individual language groups.

Research with TOPESL

Subsidiary information collected during the norming administration included data on school size, school accessibility, English contact, sex differences, and grade and age phenomena. Correlations of English contact with scores, and of school size with scores given in Section II of the manual, in Tables 3 and 10.

No significant correlations were found for accessibility. Sex data are available for the Navajos only. These are reported in Table 16.



The relative influence of grade and age on section scores can be seen in Table 17. Though there is a positive correlation between both age and grade, when grade is partialed out of the age-score correlations, they become strongly negative, indicating that within the same grade, older children tend not to do as well as younger ones.

TABLE 16

Correlation of Sex and Section Scores for Navajo Students

		ES			LC			OP	
Grade	r	SD	N	r	SD	N	r	SD	N
4 5 6	.16** .18** .15**	12.2 13.1 13.1	1,497 1,339 1,302	.03 ^{ns} .06 ^{ns} 03 ^{ns}	5.0 5.7 4.9	1,483 1,327 1,300	.13** .05 ^{ns} .11*	13.2 11.4 10.7	475 440 418

TABLE 17

Correlations of Age, Grade and Age--Grade Partialed Out
With TOPESL Section Scores

Choctaw 4,5,6	ES	<u>LC</u>	OP	<u>M</u>	SD
Age	.26	.12	.32	11.0	1.3
Grade	.50	.04	.51	4.9	.9
Age (Grade Out)	17	12	07		
Eskimo 4,5,6					
Age	04	.01	23	11.0	1.3
Grade	.36	.23	.11	4.9	.8
Age (Grade Out)	41	20	42		
Hopi 4,5,6					
Age	.10	. 21	.08	10.7	1.2
Grade	.27	.35	.31	5.0	.9
Age (Grade Out)	18	13	28		
Navajo 4					
Age (Grade Out)	04	02	06	10.4	1.0
Navajo 5					
Age (Grade Out)	09	07	13	11.4	.9
Navajo 6					
Age (Grade Out)	17	15	25	12.4	.9



APPENDIX I

BIA Schools

Barrow Day School Barrow, Alaska F 68, Sp 69, F 69

Choctaw Central School Philadelphia, Mississippi F 68, Sp 69, F 69

Hopi Day School Oraibi, Arizona F 68, Sp 69, Sp 70

Many Farms Elementary (Navajo) Chinle, Arizona F 69

Salt River Day School (Pima) Salt River, Arizona Su 68 Chinle Boarding School Chinle, Arizona F 69, Sp 70

Chuska Boarding School (Navajo) Tohatchi, New Mexico Sp 69

Leupp Boarding School (Navajo) Leupp, Arizona F 69

Oglala Community School
Pine Ridge, South Dakota
F 68, Sp 69

Los Angeles Schools

Beethoven Street School Los Angeles, California Su 69

Richland Avenue School Los Angeles, California Su 68

F = Fall Sp = Spring

Harrison Street School Los Angeles, California Su 68

San Jose Street School Los Angeles, California Sp 68

Su = Summer

APPENDIX II

CHOCTAW

Mississippi

Conehatta Boarding School Conehatta, Mississippi 39057

Choctaw Central Boarding School Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350

ESKIMO

Alaska

Akiachak Day School Akiachak, Alaska 99551

Brevig Mission Day School Brevig Mission, Alaska 99785

Chifornak Day School Chifornak, Alaska 99561

Gambell Day School Gambell, Alaska 99742

Hooper Bay, Alaska 99604

Kasigluk Day School Kasigluk, Alaska 99609

Kotlik Day School Kotlik, Alaska 99620

Mountain Village Day School Mountain Village, Alaska 99632

Nunapitchuk Day School Nunapitchuk, Alaska 99641

Savoonga Day School Savoonga, Alaska 99769

Stebbins Day School Stebbins, Alaska 99671

Unalakleet Day School Unalakleet, Alaska 99684 Barrow Day School Barrow, Alaska 99723

Chevak Day School Chevak, Alaska 99563

Elim Day School Elim, Alaska 99739

Golovin Day School Golovin, Alaska 99762

Kalskag Day School Kalskag, Alaska 99607

Kiana Day School Kiana, Alaska 99749

Kotzebue Daý School Kotzebue, Alaska 99752

Napakiak Day School Napakiak, Alaska 99634

St. Michael Day School St. Michael, Alaska 99769

Shaktoolik Day School Shaktoolik, Alaska 99771

Tuntutuliak Day School Tuntutuliak, Alaska 99680



APPENDIX II (cont.)

HOPI

Arizona

Hopi Day School Oraibi, Arizona 86039

Second Mesa Day School Second Mesa, Arizona 36043 Polacca Day School Polacca, Arizona 86042

NAVAJO

Arizona

Chinle Boarding School Chinle, Arizona 86503

Denehotso Boarding School Kayenta, Arizona 86033

Greasewood Boarding School Ganado, Arizona 86505

Kayenta Boarding School Kayenta, Arizona 86033

Lukachukai Boarding School Lukachukai, Arizona 86503

New Cottonwood Boarding School Chinle, Arizona 86503

Shonto Boarding School Tonalea, Arizona 86044

Toyei Boarding School Ganado, Arizona 86505

Chrystal Boarding School Fort Defiance, Arizona 87504

Dilcon Boarding School Winslow, Arizona 86047

Kaibeto Boarding School Tonalea, Arizona 86044

Leupp Boarding School Leupp, Arizona 86035

Many Farms Elementary School Chinle, Arizona 86503

Red Lake Boarding School Tonalea, Arizona 86044

Teecnospos Boarding School Teecnospos, Arizona 86514

Tuba City Boarding School Tuba City, Arizona 85045

New Mexico

Chuska Boarding School Tohatchi, N. Mex. 87325

Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-hle Bloomfield, N. Mex. 87413 Crownpoint Boarding School Crownpoint, N. Mex. 87313

Nenahnezad Boarding School Fruitland, N. Mex. 87301

APPENDIX II (cont.)

NAVAJO

New Mexico

Sanostee Boarding School Little Water, N. Mex. 87420

Toadlena Boarding School Toadlena, N. Mex. 87324

Wingate Elementary School Fort Wingate, N. Mex. 87316 Shiprock Boarding School Shiprock, N. Mex. 87420

Tohatchi Boarding School Tohatchi, N. Mex. 87325

Utah

Aneth Boarding School Aneth, Utah 84510



